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General and complete disarmament

Letter dated 3 October 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the First Committee

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the statement by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States Members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization made at the meeting held in Moscow on 4 September 2008.

I would greatly appreciate your assistance in circulating the statement as a document of the First Committee of the General Assembly.

(*Signed*) Armen **Martirosyan**
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 3 October 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the First Committee

Statement by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States Members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization

Moscow, 4 September 2008

We, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States Members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), note the vital importance of further efforts for the active and intense development of partner cooperation within the framework of the CSTO, with a view to strengthening global security and strategic stability and jointly countering emerging threats to peace, including international terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. At the same time, we consider it necessary to preserve and build on the key arrangements in the sphere of strategic offensive arms, which have served, over the last few decades, as the foundation for the maintenance of international stability and security.

We regard the fulfilment by the States parties of their obligations under the START Treaty as a major step on the path to nuclear disarmament and a genuine contribution to the realization of the goals set forth in the article IV of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

We welcome the intention of the two parties to the United States — Russian Strategic Framework Declaration adopted on 6 April 2008, in Sochi, to carry out strategic offensive potential reduction to the lowest possible level and to continue development of a legally binding arrangement to replace START following its expiry on 5 December 2009.

We consider that such an arrangement could incorporate all the best elements of the current START Treaty, while setting new reduced and verifiable levels for both strategic carriers (intercontinental ballistic missiles, submarine-launched ballistic missiles and heavy bombers) and the warheads deployed on them.

We consider that the achievement of such arrangement would guarantee stability and predictability in strategic relations among the major nuclear countries and strengthen confidence in progress towards the total destruction of nuclear weapons in the world.

Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia

Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus

Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan

Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic

Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation

Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan

Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan